

Thirtieth Annual Report
Maryland State Board
Of
Motion Picture Censors



1945-1946

Offices
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET
Baltimore 1, Maryland

HALL OF RECORDS
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

785756

Thirtieth Annual Report
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Of
Motion Picture Censors

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BENJAMIN HANCE
Chairman

AGNES L. NOON
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

HELEN C. TINGLEY
Secretary

HELEN L. ODOM
Chief Clerk



Offices
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET
Baltimore 1, Maryland

HONORABLE HERBERT R. O'CONOR,
Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Governor O'Connor:

As required by Section 9 of Chapter 390 of the Acts of 1922 of the General Assembly of Maryland, as thereafter amended, the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors hereby presents its Thirtieth Annual Report.

From this report you are advised of the work of our department for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1945, and ending June 30, 1946, and its financial status resulting therefrom for that period.

General Statement

In the performance of the duty of the Board to review promptly all films for commercial exhibitions and use in Maryland, daily attendance at its offices at 848 North Howard Street, Baltimore, Maryland, is required. In addition to the examination of films, constant supervision of the office staff is also necessary.

Each week a meeting of the Board is held. All matters that may arise pertaining to the operation of the office are considered and a record made of its decisions.

Within the fiscal year above mentioned, 2,004 original films were reviewed and 15,574 duplicate prints of films licensed. There were 620 features and 1,384 original short subjects, newsreels, and cartoons. One film was rejected in toto, and 98 eliminations were made on statutory grounds. The number of original prints of "soundies" was 74, and 90 duplicate prints were licensed. Twenty-eight foreign-made films were reviewed and licensed with the Foreign Language Committees rendering their usual assistance.

Receipts and Disbursements

The receipts for the fiscal year, \$59,396.00, were in excess of any year since the establishment of this department; the expenditures in operating the office were \$35,802.90, leaving

a balance of \$23,593.10 returned to the Treasury of our State.

Work of the Board

During the year, 98 eliminations were ordered in films presented for review, and one feature film was rejected in toto. This action was taken under standards prescribed by the statute as follows:

Inhuman, tending to corrupt morals or incite to crime	66
Indecent and immoral, tending to corrupt morals or incite to crime	32
Rejected in toto (indecent)	1
Total	99

In its desire to expedite the release of a film in which eliminations have been ordered, the Board gives the applicant immediate notice of its action. The applicant may accept the order or, if he wishes to appeal from it, signs a formal application for the re-examination of this film. Two or more Board members promptly review the film in his presence and final action is taken. Recourse to the Baltimore City Court is provided by statute, should the applicant seek further redress.

The decision of the Board to reject in toto a feature film presented for review was fortified by the opinion of a representative of the National Legion of Decency and the President of the Council of Churches. After reviewing the film with the members of the Board, both clergymen agreed that the character of the material presented would permit of no other action.

Cooperation with Federal Agencies

The cooperation of the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors was sought by the Commissioner of Narcotics to prohibit the exhibition of a film, "Tell Your Children." Other titles under which this film appeared were furnished by the Commissioner. The Board notified its inspectors throughout the State to be on the alert for the picture under all of its titles. The picture had been rejected by this Board in 1940.

Receipt of a notice from the Federal Trade Commission to prohibit the distribution of a picture entitled, "Ingagi," was given the same attention by the Board.

Public Relations

The Board took cognizance of a letter written by Archbishop Curley to the members of the Archdiocese and published in the Catholic Review of April 18, 1946, urging the Board of Motion Picture Censors to reject the picture "The Outlaw."

On May 15, 1946, the Board received a petition bearing the names of 22,000 signers, requesting that the picture, "The Outlaw," be banned.

The film had been submitted to this Board in 1942. Certain eliminations were ordered which were not accepted by the applicant who withdrew the picture. It has not been resubmitted for review.

The Board has placed its screening room at the disposal of the Racing Commissioner, a representative of the Third Service Command, and an officer of the United States Navy, upon their request for the screening of certain films used in connection with their projects. It has also cooperated with the motion picture industry to allow the press reviews of feature films on the premises.

Officials from several states which are as yet without censorship legislation have requested and received copies of the Maryland censorship law. It is also worthy of note that a like request was received from an official of Uruguay.

State Censorship

The Board notes the general discussion in the public press of the efficacy of state censorship as opposed to self-regulation by the industry. It recognized little conflict of interest between these regulatory methods, but finds instead that state censorship frequently supplements and implements the latter.

Set up as it is under the police power of the state, the Board is in a position to enforce as fundamental moral standards those regulations to which members of the Production Code

Administration voluntarily subscribe. It is furthermore in a position to hold independent producers or non-subscribers to the Production Code Administration to moral standards equally essential to the public interest. This fact becomes increasingly important as the volume of production and distribution of the 16mm film increases. In this new field of expansion of the motion picture industry, few producers are members of the Production Code Administration, nor have the companies engaged in the production of this type of entertainment formed a regulatory code of their own. Without the regulatory power of state censorship the opportunity for the development of theatres of the sex circuit type are limitless.

In the attached statistical summary will be found a financial statement and tabular account of the work of this department.

Respectfully submitted,

BENJAMIN HANCE, *Chairman*

AGNAS L. NOON, *Vice-Chairman*

HELEN C. TINGLEY, *Secretary*

August 31, 1946

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1946

Receipts

Fees:

Original Reels—35 MM (5,393,611 ft.)	\$12,280.00	
Original Reels—16 MM (63,399 ft.)	296.00	
(Reversible)		\$12,576.00
Duplicate Reels—35MM (38,785,356 ft.)	\$44,989.00	
Duplicate Reels—16 MM (76,877 ft.)	180.00	
(Reversible)		\$45,169.00
Sale of Substitute Seals (1,651)	1,651.00	\$59,396.00
Deposited to Credit of State Treasurer		\$59,396.00

Expenses

Salaries

Board Members	\$ 7,100.00	
Other Employees	23,329.97	
		\$30,429.97

Other Expenses

Repairs	\$ 52.53	
Light, Heat, Power and Water	295.56	
Traveling	879.20	
Communication	639.53	
Printing	41.00	
Contractual, Film Seals	1,930.00	
RCA Inspection Service	274.04	
Office Supplies	605.53	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies	131.18	
Office Equipment	266.86	
Motion Picture Equipment	225.00	
Insurance	32.50	
		\$ 5,372.93

\$35,802.90

Budget Account (Per Comptroller)

Appropriation (1946)	\$37,140.00	
Refunds (Communication, Item 206)	14.85	
(Office Equipment, Item 501)	61.00	
		\$37,215.85
Less Reversion to Reserve Fund	1,412.95	
General Fund Disbursement		\$35,802.90

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
TABLE SHOWING TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSE-
MENTS TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNTS REVERTING
TO THE STATE TREASURY

October 1, 1920—June 30, 1946

	Receipts	Disbursements	Amount Reverting to State Treasury
10-1-20 to 9-30-21 -----	\$ 26,488.33	\$ 19,025.26	\$ 7,463.07
10-1-21 to 9-30-22 -----	26,866.90	19,842.12	7,024.78
10-1-22 to 9-30-23 -----	27,059.51	19,892.93	7,166.58
10-1-23 to 9-30-24 -----	26,338.50	20,730.44	5,608.06
10-1-24 to 9-30-25 -----	29,249.50	22,207.24	7,042.26
10-1-25 to 9-30-26 -----	30,207.92	22,662.82	7,545.10
10-1-26 to 9-30-27 -----	32,498.55	24,883.80	7,614.75
10-1-27 to 9-30-28 -----	38,165.57	27,734.69	10,430.88
10-1-28 to 9-30-29 -----	44,486.27	32,937.76	11,548.51
10-1-29 to 9-30-30 -----	38,954.98	31,718.26	7,236.72
10-1-30 to 9-30-31 -----	35,245.85	31,816.79	3,429.06
10-1-31 to 9-30-32 -----	35,637.44	32,158.81	3,478.63
10-1-32 to 9-30-33 -----	35,152.34	34,207.93	944.41
10-1-33 to 9-30-34 -----	36,563.00	27,174.49	9,388.51
10-1-34 to 9-30-35 -----	39,463.00	27,577.76	11,885.24
10-1-35 to 9-30-36 -----	44,073.00	28,927.98	15,145.02
10-1-36 to 9-30-37 -----	49,293.00	28,855.10	20,437.90
10-1-37 to 9-30-38 -----	48,659.00	30,197.34	18,461.66
10-1-38 to 9-30-39 -----	50,180.00	30,302.92	19,877.08
10-1-39 to 9-30-40 -----	53,180.00	29,598.72	23,581.28
10-1-40 to 9-30-41 -----	55,877.00	30,347.18	25,529.82
10-1-41 to 9-30-42 -----	55,561.00	31,135.92	24,425.08
10-1-42 to 6-30-43 -----	39,828.00	22,578.29	17,249.71
7-1-43 to 6-30-44 -----	55,585.00	35,112.59	20,472.41
7-1-44 to 6-30-45 -----	55,054.00	35,090.08	19,963.92
7-1-45 to 6-30-46 -----	59,396.00	35,802.90	23,593.10
	<hr/> \$1,069,063.66	<hr/> \$732,520.12	<hr/> \$336,543.54

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED

July 1, 1945—June 30, 1946

1945	Films		Reels		No. of Feet		Films		Films	
	Original	Duplicate	Original	Duplicate	Original	Duplicate	Approved	Rejected	Eliminated	
July	153	1,228	499	3,597	405,825	2,903,049	1,376	0	5	
August	161	1,387	546	4,319	436,511	3,498,019	1,542	0	6	
September	171	1,283	535	3,584	445,160	3,220,561	1,448	0	6	
October	171	1,317	479	3,960	387,291	3,346,961	1,481	0	7	
November	160	1,264	510	3,938	423,394	3,177,694	1,408	0	16	
December	145	1,107	541	3,638	443,809	3,020,087	1,243	0	9	
January	196	1,421	653	4,714	547,621	3,966,363	1,600	0	17	
February	157	1,148	549	3,435	455,077	2,797,400	1,303	0	2	
March	177	1,335	602	4,084	491,362	3,352,426	1,507	0	5	
April	164	1,336	568	4,364	466,065	3,636,357	1,495	0	5	
May	199	1,565	605	4,948	497,007	3,987,406	1,754	1	9	
June	150	1,183	569	3,643	457,888	2,955,910	1,322	0	11	
Totals	2,004	15,574	5,656	43,224	5,457,010	39,862,233	17,479	1	98	

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS

July 1, 1945—June 30, 1946

1945	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Miscel- laneous
July	313	203	708	142	5	10
August	393	188	898	59	4	6
September	348	362	701	31	11	1
October	362	258	791	60	16	1
November	335	210	806	65	6	2
December	363	161	695	26	6	1
January	453	283	775	70	10	26
February	317	204	700	76	7	1
March	387	207	805	108	4	1
April	419	246	709	109	3	14
May	439	266	884	163	11	1
June	316	219	706	76	7	9
Totals	4,445	2,807	9,178	985	90	73

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Films, Original.....	2,004		
Films, Duplicate.....	15,574		
Reels, Original	5,656		
Reels, Duplicate	48,224		
Number of Feet, Original	5,457,010		
Number of Feet, Duplicate	39,862,233		
Films Approved			17,479
Films Rejected			1
Films Eliminated			98
	17,578	53,880	45,319,243
			17,578